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(54) Retail goods trolley

(57) One or more rigid, open topped goods containers (20) can be

removably located to form a lining in the carrying compartment of the trolley. Alternatively, the containers may be removably supported on a platform of a goods trolley.

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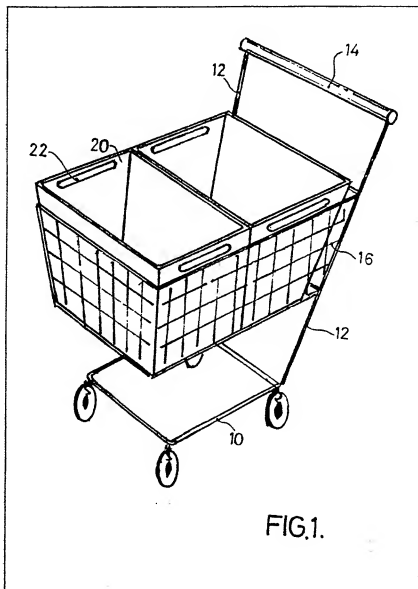


FIG.1.

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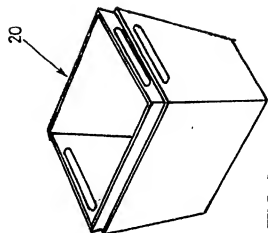


FIG. 2.

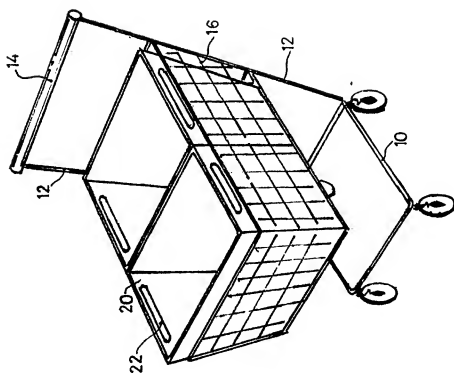


FIG. 1.

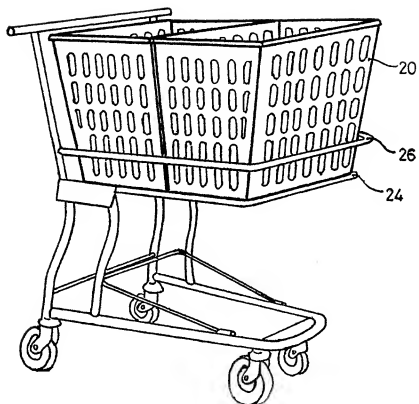


FIG.3.

SPECIFICATION Container

This invention relates to containers and more particularly containers intended for merchandise purchased by customers at "self-service" retail shops.

- It is now commonplace for retail shops to be arranged for so-called self service. In such a shop the customer selects the goods required from open access shelves and then pays for the goods at a "checkout". When a large volume of goods is purchased the customer often places his purchases in a wheeled container called a "trolley". At some stage the customer must unload the purchased goods from the trolley. The retailer would like such unloading to be effected in the shop but frequently the customer will wish to take the trolley out of the shop to his car or even to his home in order to unload it there.
- 20 Inevitably some trolleys are never returned to the shop. According to the invention there is provided a rigid, open topped container adapted to be removably located in a retail goods trolley to form a lining on at least a part of the bottom and at least a part of the walls of said trolley.

- In a preferred embodiment of the invention the container is made up from a plurality of units, each of which can individually serve to contain goods and which together substantially form a lining around the goods trolley. It is preferred that the or each container when in place in the trolley, projects above the rim of the goods receiving part of the trolley so as to facilitate the removal of a container from the trolley, particularly when the container is loaded. The walls and base of the container of the invention may be solid or they may be apertured so as to reduce the volume of material of the container.

- The or each container may be composed of a rigid or semi rigid plastics material such as polypropylene. Alternatively the container may be composed of cardboard.

- The container is preferably reversibly collapsible to a flat configuration when not in use. The container may also be assembled from a flat, cut-out blank.

- Specific embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

- Figure 1 is a perspective view from above and one side of a trolley fitted with a two part container;

- Figure 2 shows the two parts of the container of Figure 1 in a nested condition; and

- Figure 3 is a part perspective view from one side of another embodiment of trolley and container.

- Referring to Figure 1 a trolley of the kind used in self service shops comprises a generally rectangular wheeled frame 10. Two uprights 12 extend from adjacent corners of from 12 to support a handle 14. A wire basket 16 is fixed at

adjacent edges thereof to the uprights 12. The opposite walls of the basket are inclined towards each other in the downward direction.

- The basket 16 is lined with a pair of substantially rigid containers 20 preferably made of plastics material such as polypropylene. Each container of the pair is preferably substantially of the same dimensions so that when not in use they can be nested one within the other as shown in Figure 2. The precise dimensions of containers 20 are selected in accordance with the trolley basket in which it is intended they shall be used.
- 75 However, it is not essential that the dimensions of the containers be the same. In some cases that is not possible due to the asymmetric shape of the trolley basket with which the containers are to be used. Moreover the number of containers is not limited to a pair but can be increased or decreased as desired.

As illustrated in Figure 1 the containers are sufficiently high that they project above the level of the basket rim when in position in the basket.

- This assists in removal of the containers from the basket. If desired apertures 22 serving as handles can be formed in the part of the container walls that project above the basket rim. Alternatively an out-turned flange can be formed around the rim of the containers.

- The use of containers in accordance with the invention can lead to a simplified trolley construction as illustrated in Figure 2. Thus, it is no longer necessary for the trolley to include a basket; all that is required is support for the containers. In the embodiment of Figure 3 such support comprises base 24 and a rectangular frame 26 spaced a short distance above the base 24.

- As shown in Figure 3 the containers need not have solid walls but may be apertured so as to reduce the amount of material used in construction thereof.

- The invention is not limited to the above described specific embodiment; many variations and modifications can be made.

CLAIMS

1. A rigid, open topped, retail goods trolley container adapted to be removably located in a retail goods trolley to form a lining on at least part of the bottom and at least part of the walls of a goods carrying compartment thereof.
2. A container as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plurality of separate units, cooperating in use to fill said compartment.
3. A container as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising a rim projecting in use above a rim of said compartment.
4. A container as claimed in any preceding claim, composed of polypropylene.
5. A container as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, composed of cardboard.
6. A container as claimed in claim 5, reversibly collapsible to a flat configuration.

7. A container as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 wherein the rim incorporates a flange or other hand-grip.

5 8. A container substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawings.

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